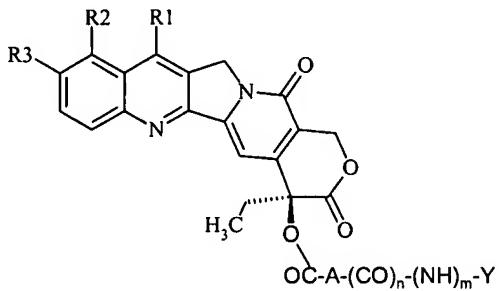


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) A compound of Formula (I)



where:

A is saturated or unsaturated straight or branched C₁-C₈ alkyl, C₃-C₁₀ cycloalkyl, straight or branched C₃-C₁₀ cycloalkyl-C₁-C₈ alkyl;

n and m are both 0;

Y is 4-trimethylammonium-3-hydroxybutanoyl, both in the form of inner salt and in the form of a salt with an anion of a pharmaceutically acceptable acid, or Y is N⁺R₁₂R₁₃R₁₄, as defined above;

R₁ is hydrogen or a -C(R₅)=N-O-R₄ group, in which R₄ is hydrogen or a straight or branched C₁-C₅ alkyl or C₁-C₅ alkenyl group, or a C₃-C₁₀ cycloalkyl group, or a straight or branched (C₃-C₁₀) cycloalkyl - (C₁-C₅) alkyl group, or a C₆-C₁₄ aryl group, or a straight or branched (C₆-C₁₄) aryl - (C₁-C₅) alkyl group, or a heterocyclic group or a straight or branched

heterocyclo - (C₁-C₅) alkyl group, said heterocyclic group containing at least one heteroatom selected from an atom of nitrogen, optionally substituted with a (C₁-C₅) alkyl group, and/or an atom of oxygen and/or of sulphur; said alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aryl-alkyl, heterocyclic or heterocyclo-alkyl groups may optionally be substituted with one or more groups selected from: halogen, hydroxy, C₁-C₅ alkyl, C₁-C₅ alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, -NR₆R₇, where R₆ and R₇, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched (C₁-C₅) alkyl, the -COOH group or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable esters; or the -CONR₈R₉ group, where R₈ and R₉, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched (C₁-C₅) alkyl; or R₄ is a (C₆-C₁₀) aroyl or (C₆-C₁₀) arylsulphonyl residue, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from: halogen, hydroxy, straight or branched C₁-C₅ alkyl, straight or branched C₁-C₅ alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, -NR₁₀R₁₁, where R₁₀ and R₁₁, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched C₁-C₅ alkyl; or R₄ is a polyaminoalkyl residue; or R₄ is a glycosyl residue; R₅ is hydrogen, straight or branched C₁-C₅ alkyl, straight or branched C₁-C₅ alkenyl, C₃-C₁₀ cycloalkyl, straight or branched (C₃-C₁₀) cycloalkyl - (C₁-C₅) alkyl, C₆-C₁₄ aryl, straight or branched (C₆-C₁₄) aryl - (C₁-C₅) alkyl; R₂ and R₃, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, hydroxyl, straight or branched C₁-C₅ alkoxy; the N1-oxides, the racemic mixtures, their individual enantiomers, their individual diastereoisomers, their mixtures, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

22. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 21, selected from the group consisting of:

(E)-7-tert-butoxyiminomethyl-20-O-(4-trimethyl-ammonium-3-hydroxy)butanoyl-camptothecin bromide; and

(E)-7-tert-butoxyiminomethyl-20-O-(4-trimethyl-ammonium)butanoyl-camptothecin bromide;

23. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of compounds according to claim 21, where n and m are 0, comprising:

a) reaction of the camptothecin, substituted with the R₁, R₂ and R₃ groups defined above, with a carboxylic acid bearing a leaving group in ω to obtain the respective ester in position 20; and

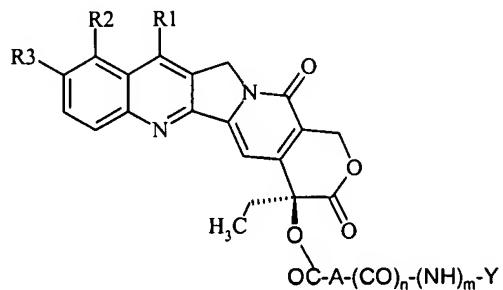
b) substitution of said leaving group with the Y group.

24. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition containing a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound according to claim 21, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle or excipient.

25. (Canceled).

26. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a lung cancer comprising administering to a subject having said tumor an effective amount of a compound of claim 21.

27. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a lung cancer comprising administering to a subject having said tumor an effective amount of a compound of the formula



where:

A is saturated or unsaturated straight or branched C₁-C₈ alkyl, C₃-C₁₀ cycloalkyl, straight or branched C₃-C₁₀ cycloalkyl-C₁-C₈ alkyl;

n and m are both 0 or both 1;

when n and m are both equal to 1, Y is saturated or unsaturated straight or branched C₁-C₈ alkyl substituted with NR₁₂R₁₃ or N⁺R₁₂R₁₃R₁₄, where R₁₂, R₁₃ and R₁₄, which can be the same or different, are hydrogen or straight or branched C₁-C₄ alkyl, or Y is BCOOX, where B is a residue of an amino acid, X is H, straight or branched C₁-C₄ alkyl, benzyl or phenyl, substituted in the available positions with at least one group selected from C₁-C₄ alkoxy, halogen, nitro, amino, C₁-C₄ alkyl;

if n and m are both 0, Y is 4-trimethylammonium-3-hydroxybutanoyl, both in the form of inner salt and in the form of a salt with an anion of a pharmaceutically acceptable acid, or Y is $\text{N}^+\text{R}_{12}\text{R}_{13}\text{R}_{14}$, as defined above;

R_1 is a $-\text{C}(\text{R}_5)=\text{N}-\text{O}-\text{R}_4$ group, in which R_4 is hydrogen or a straight or branched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5$ alkyl or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5$ alkenyl group, or a $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{10}$ cycloalkyl group, or a straight or branched ($\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{10}$) cycloalkyl - ($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5$) alkyl group, or a $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{14}$ aryl group, or a straight or branched ($\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{14}$) aryl - ($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5$) alkyl group, or a heterocyclic group or a straight or branched heterocyclo - ($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5$) alkyl group, said heterocyclic group containing at least one heteroatom selected from an atom of nitrogen, optionally substituted with a ($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5$) alkyl group, and/or an atom of oxygen and/or of sulphur; said alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aryl-alkyl, heterocyclic or heterocyclo-alkyl groups may optionally be substituted with one or more groups selected from: halogen, hydroxy, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5$ alkyl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5$ alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, $-\text{NR}_6\text{R}_7$, where R_6 and R_7 , which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched ($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5$) alkyl, the $-\text{COOH}$ group or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable esters; or the $-\text{CONR}_8\text{R}_9$ group, where R_8 and R_9 , which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched ($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5$) alkyl; or R_4 is a ($\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{10}$) aroyl or ($\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{10}$) arylsulphonyl residue, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from: halogen, hydroxy, straight or branched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5$ alkyl, straight or branched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5$ alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, $-\text{NR}_{10}\text{R}_{11}$, where R_{10} and R_{11} , which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5$ alkyl; or R_4 is a polyaminoalkyl residue; or R_4 is a glycosyl residue; R_5 is hydrogen, straight or branched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5$ alkyl, straight or branched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5$ alkenyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{10}$ cycloalkyl, straight or branched ($\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{10}$) cycloalkyl - ($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5$) alkyl, $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{14}$ aryl, straight or branched ($\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{14}$) aryl - ($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5$) alkyl; R_2 and R_3 , which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, hydroxyl, straight or branched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5$ alkoxy; the N1-oxides, the racemic

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mixtures, their individual enantiomers, their individual diastereoisomers, their mixtures, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts.